

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03185 051111Z

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ACDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /118 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USUN NEW YORK 1634

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3185

FROM USDEL LOS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: MOROCCAN INTERVENTION ON STRAITS AND
ON ENCLAVES

1. IN SOMEWHAT RAMBLING DISCOURSE, MOROCCAN CHIEF
OF DELEGATION GHARBI ATTACKED SPANISH PRESENCE IN
ENCLAVES OF CEUTA AND MELILLA. HE POINTED OUT
SPANISH ENCLAVES WITHIN MOROCCAN TERRITORY HAD
STATUS IDENTICAL TO ISLAND OF GIBRALTAR. GHARBI
REFERRED TO VIOLATION OF MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL SEA BY
SPANISH NAVAL VESSELS WHICH ATTACKED PATROL BOATS OF
MOROCCO. HE STATED SPANISH COULD CONTROL STRATEGIC
TRAFFIC THROUGH GIBRALTAR BY ESTABLISHING INTER-
CEPTION LINES BETWEEN SPANISH MAINLAND AND ENCLAVES.
WHILE MOROCCO SUPPORTED INNOCENT PASSAGE OF STRAITS,
THEY HAD NO AMBITION TO "LORD OVER" MARITIME TRAFFIC.
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03185 051111Z

GHARBI STATED THAT COLONIAL OCCUPATION OF ENCLAVES

CONSTITUTED PERMANENT SECURITY THREAT TO MOROCCO.
AT THE SAME TIME, HE INDICATED THAT IF THERE WAS NO
HARM, "THERE WAS NO NEED FOR CONSTRAINTS" IN CON-
NECTION WITH THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR. SPANISH
EXERCISED RIGHT OF REPLY; IN LOW-KEY FASHION,
THEY INDICATED THAT THEY RESERVED THEIR POSITION.

2. COMMENT:

THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION BY MOROCCO OF FLEX-
IBILITY ON STRAITS PASSAGE. MOROCCO'S ATTACK ON
SPANISH WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO CONVEY MESSAGE
THAT MOROCCANS NO LONGER HOLD IDENTICAL VIEWS WITH
SPANISH ON REGIME OF PASSAGE IN STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR.
DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT INTERVENTION ON THE RECORD
WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ARAB STATES TO
LEND UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR HARD-LINE SPANISH
POSITION THAT ONLY EXISTING REGIME OF INNOCENT
PASSAGE SHOULD APPLY TO STRAITS OF GIBRALTER.
ABRAMS

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